reducing biotic pressure on such corridors. An amount of Rs. 3.33 Crore has been released to the State Government under the Project since its inception for protection and development of elephant corridors.

Sale of peacock feathers

1762. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal sale of peacock feathers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to prevent its sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Peacock tail feathers are shed annually and are collected countrywide by local people, in rural and urban areas, for religious, cultural and other purposes. There is no restriction on collection and sale of naturally shed peacock tail feathers within the country. However, export of peacock tail feathers is banned.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in National Parks and Bird Sanctuaries

1763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the number of National Parks, Bird Sanctuaries, Zoo's, project tigers and elephants and lion safaris in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such increase proposed to be made in 2003-04, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) Power to establish national parks and sanctuaries vests with State Government,